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Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan :—"If that is so, what is the reason for the Home Member ignoring the claims of the gentleman who has acted once or twice?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—"I am sorry I cannot give the information as my recommendation to His Excellency is confidential."

Budget

Utilization of the amount released by the remission of provincial contribution.

*1019 Q.—Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state how the additional amount released this year by the remission of contribution by this Province to the India Government is utilized or is proposed to be utilized during the current year?

A.—The budget for the current year, as presented to the Legislative Council, provided for the Provincial contribution of Rs. 48·73 lakhs to the Government of India as an item of expenditure, and showed a deficit of 50·20 lakhs. The effect of the permanent remission of this contribution which was announced by the Government of India after the budget had been prepared and the voting of further demands by the Council was to reduce the deficit which would have to be met by drawing on the opening balance to Rs. 8·30 lakhs.

Investment of Government deposits in the Postal Savings Bank.

*1020 Q.—Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased—

(i) to lay on the table a statement of lapsed deposits on 1st April 1928 in each district ; and

(ii) to state what action in detail has been taken by Government on the suggestion made by me on 13th March 1928 regarding the investment of all deposits entrusted to the civil, revenue and criminal courts, in the Postal Savings Banks or in the Post Office Cash Certificate system and the issue of registered notices to the parties concerned?

A.—(i) A statement [a] obtained from the Accountant-General is enclosed, showing the lapsed deposits on 31st March 1928 in each district which have been adjusted to the credit of Government in accordance with article 359 of the Madras Financial and Account Code.

(ii) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to Legislative Council question No. 815 at the meeting held on 31st March 1927. Under certain Acts, such as the Land Acquisition Act, money received by courts can be invested in securities approved by them. There is also nothing to prevent courts ordering the deposit in a bank of moneys in dispute produced before them, provided all the parties concerned consent. All such money as is not invested has to be remitted to the treasury to the credit of deposits, and it is not open to the Local Government to withdraw the amounts from the

[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 129 infra.

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Treasury, as such a course is opposed to the statutory rules issued by the Governor-General in Council with the previous approval of the Secretary of State in Council.

Repayment of deposits can, according to the rule laid down in article 351 of the Madras Financial and Account Code, be made only on the appearance and on the receipt of the person entitled to it, although in the case of deposit amounts which do not exceed Rs. 100, repayment may be made by money order.

In the case of lapsed civil court deposits, notices are usually given to parties through the *Fort St. George Gazette* or District Gazette, a month before the date of the lapsing of the sums to Government.

The Government do not consider it necessary to modify the existing rules, as it is primarily for the party concerned to make arrangements for receiving the amount due to him, and as the adoption of the course suggested is open to *obvious objection.*

Railways

Construction of a new railway to connect Bhadrachalam with the Madras-Calcutta main line.

*1021 *Q.*—Mr. D. Narayana Raju: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to construct a new railway line connecting Bhadrachalam with the Madras-Calcutta main line either at Ellore or at Nidadavole in the West Godavari district; and

(*b*) if so, in what stage the said proposal is?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) An Engineering Reconnaissance Survey has been carried out for a line of railway from Ellore to a point on the Godavari river opposite the mouth of the Sabari river, a distance of about 70 miles. No decision can be arrived at until a Traffic Survey of the Ellore-Sabari Valley Railway for which the Railway Board's sanction has been applied for, is carried out.

Mr. D. Narayana Raju:—"May I know, Sir, whether the relative advantage of taking a new railway line from Nidadavole to Sabari Valley instead of from Ellore to Sabari Valley has been considered, and if not, whether Government propose to advise the authorities concerned to examine the matter?"

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir:—"I must ask for notice, Sir."

Alleged inconveniences in Railway stations in the M. & S. M. Railway.

*1022 *Q.*—Mr. C. Venkatarangam Nayudu: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government Inspector of Railways has been drawn to the inconvenience and risk of falling into the railway line on account of the distance that separates the platform from the footboard of railway carriages at Mailpati Railway station of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway;